

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 07623 131457Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 SS-15 /028 W

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R 122132Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 182

UNCLAS BOGOTA 7623

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CASC CO

SUBJ: ENROLLMENT OF SON OF JAY HOROWITZ IN COLEGIO NUEVA
GRANADA

REF: STATE 188454

1. SITUATION WITH HOROWITZ SONE IS AS FOLLOWS: FAMILY SOUGHT TO ENROLL TWO CHILDREN. ONE, A 4 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN ADMITTED INTO THE BASIC KINDERGARTEN. THE SECOND CHILD, SUBJECT OF REFTEL, APPLIED FOR ADMISSION TO THE FIRST GRADE. AT NUEVA GRANADA, PREFERENCE IN ADMISSION TO FIRST GRADE IS GIVEN TO THOSE APPLICANTS WHO HAVE COME THROUGH THE SCHOOL'S TWO BASIC KINDERGARTEN CLASSES, BOTH FOR CONTINUITY'S SAKE AND BECAUSE THAT IS WHEN ENGLISH IS ACQUIRED TO PERMIT FURTHER MATRICULATION IN LATER CLASSES. DAMOND WAS PLACED ON THE WAITING LIST SINCE HE WAS APPLYING FOR ENTRY INTO NUEVA GRANADA FOR THE FIRST TIME. APPLICANTS ON THE WAITING LIST ARE THEN TESTED FOR ENGLISH, AND ADMISSION FROM THE WAITING LIST IS BASE UPON BOTH SPACE AND CAPACITY TO HANDLE ENGLISH AT A LEVEL REQUIRED FOR SUCCESS IN THE GRADE TO WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE. IN THIS CASE, DAMOND TESTED BELOW THE REQUIRED LEVEL FOR ENGLISH IN THE FIRST GRADE. (FATHER IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND MOTHER IS A COLOMBIAN CITIZEN).

2. THE SCHOOL INFORMS US THAT ALL CHILDREN STILL ON THE WAITING LIST ARE BEING RETESTED IN ENGLISH ON AUG 19. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY, IF DAMOND'S ENGLISH
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 07623 131457Z

LEVEL SHOWS IMPROVEMENT, THAT HE CAN BE ADMITTED, BUT

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE.

3. THE SCHOOL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT HAS GROUNDS FOR GIVING PREFERENCE PER SE OVER OTHER QUALIFIED APPLICANTS OR FOR ENROLLING HIM IF HE CANNOT MEET ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS. POST BELIEVES THAT THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN HANDLED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY UP TO NOW BY THE SCHOOL ALL FACTORS AND CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED.

4. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NUEVA GRANADA IS NOT RPT NOT "SUBSIDIZED BY THE USG." IT DOES RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE OVERSEAS SCHOOL PROGRAM AIMENFAT SUPPORTING BINATIONAL EDUCATION WHICH AMOUNTS TO APPROXIMATELY FIVE PERCENT OF ITS BUDGET. THE SCHOOL IS AN INDEPENDENT, PRIVATELY INCORPORATED SCHOOL ADJUSTED TO BINATIONAL EDUCATION WITH ITS OWN BOARD OF DIRECTORS. SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 50 PERCENT (NOT 50 STUDENTS) OF THE ENROLLMENT IS COLOMBIAN, AND THE SCHOOL'S POLICY IS TO MAINTAIN THAT RATIO SINCE ITS RAISON D'ETRE IS BINATIONAL EDUCATION. VAKY

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